

XXIII.—*Descriptions of new Coleoptera from New Zealand.*  
By Captain THOS. BROUN.

[Continued from p. 88.]

Group *Colydiidæ*.

*Coxelus thoracicus*, sp. n.

*Oblong*, opaque, ferruginous; clothed with short, erect, pale and dark setiform squamæ; legs and antennæ paler red.

*Head* granulate; epistome nearly smooth, separated from the sides by oblique depressions; the setæ rather slender, yellow. *Eyes* small, with apparently an external swelling behind and below each. *Antennæ* finely pubescent, first joint scarcely discernible from above, second rather large, third slightly longer than fourth, the following five short; tenth abruptly enlarged, eleventh not so broad as the preceding one. *Thorax* subquadrate, slightly curvedly narrowed towards the prominent front angles, nearly straight and but little narrowed posteriorly; marginal channels rather shallow, the sides less explanate behind than in front; the disk is without well-marked impressions, but, close to the basal margin, there is a linear transverse impression which, in front of the scutellum, becomes a sort of fovea; the granules on its surface are rather distinctly separated from one another, they are not large. *Elytra* with coarser setæ than the thorax, their sculpture quite serial and regular; there is a small scutellar depression only; the base is medially emarginate, but nearly truncate towards the sides, so that the humeral angles are almost rectangular. *Tibiæ* with short slender setæ.

*Underside* dull, bearing fine yellowish setæ; metasternum granulate, the rest of the sculpture more or less indefinite; fourth ventral segment depressed behind.

*Var.*—Body piceous; legs and antennæ pale brick-red; granules on thorax coarser; size larger ( $1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ ).

Length  $1\frac{1}{8}$ , breadth  $\frac{3}{8}$  line.

Wellington. Discovered by Mr. J. H. Lewis on the underside of wet stones just above high-water mark.

*Obs.* I have selected two or three diagnostic characters of each species as an aid to identification:—

No. 350.—Thorax uneven, elytra without depressions, tibiæ with coarse setæ.

No. 351.—Like No. 350, tibiæ with fine hairs only.

No. 352.—Larger than No. 350, eyes more prominent, thorax with a slight median channel and depressed near posterior angles.

No. 1357.—Setæ erect, rather slender, quite yellow, short and slender on tibiæ.

No. 1711.—Thorax with four dorsal impressions; setæ yellow, not scale-like, fine and hair-like on tibiæ.

No. 1931.—Sides of thorax considerably dilated anteriorly, surface rather flat and with feeble impressions only.

No. 1932.—Elytra with rather acute and slightly produced apices.

No. 1933.—Thorax oviform, with a narrow central groove.

No. 1934.—Distinguished from No. 1711 by the squamiform setæ on elytra.

No. 2354.—Elytra on top of posterior declivity, at the suture, with a raised black spot; the patch of setæ behind each eye very prominent.

No. 2355.—Small; antennæ piceous.

No. 2356.—Four hind tibiæ acutely prolonged at inner extremity.

No. 2499.—Elytra with regular series of small distinctly separated tubercles; body rather elongate.

*C. thoracicus*.—Thorax and elytra without discoidal depressions; setæ coarse.

*Vitiacus incertus*, var. of *V. costatus*.

The sculpture of the *elytra* between the suture and the first costa seems to consist of two series of small tubercles or granules (*V. costatus*, when examined sideways, presents the same appearance); the third costa or elevation is absent, but the curvate elevation proceeding from the apex, but quite distinct from the lateral margin, is well developed.

The *front coxæ* are placed close to the base of the prosternum; before each there is a large depression; they are separated by a rather narrow process. The *mesosternum* has a broad longitudinal depression in the middle. The sutures between the *ventral segments* are very deep and broad. The intermediate and posterior *coxæ* are much more widely separated than the anterior. The *labrum* is prominent and red.

This may be treated as a varietal form of *V. costatus* (Man. N. Z. Coleopt. p. 1087) until further material of both becomes available for comparison.

Length  $1\frac{3}{8}$ , breadth  $\frac{5}{8}$  line.

Mount Te Aroha. Two, amongst leaves, March 1894.

Group *Bothrideridæ*.*Bothrideres obsoletus*, sp. n.

*Elongate*, glabrous, slightly nitid; black, antennæ and tarsi pitchy red.

*Head* rather finely punctured. *Eyes* large and prominent. *Antennæ* pubescent; first joint thick and subglobose; second smaller, third longer than broad; 4 to 8 short, nearly equal to one another; ninth larger than the preceding one, tenth nearly thrice the width of the ninth, eleventh rounded apically. *Thorax* of about equal length and breadth, distinctly narrowed behind the middle; near the centre there is a large impression; this has a small lanceolate mark in the middle; there are three small basal impressions, the one in front of the scutellum is linear; the disk is finely punctured, quite obsoletely in the middle; the punctuation, however, becomes more distinct towards the sides. *Elytra* elongate, broader than the thorax, narrowed posteriorly, the shoulders with well-defined margins; their striæ are sharply marked, but only obsoletely punctured; interstices rather broad and flat, finely and indistinctly punctate, the third, fourth, and fifth and the suture are more or less evidently cariniform behind. *Legs* elongate and slender.

*Underside* with fine scanty greyish pubescence. *Prosternum* moderately coarsely punctured, its flanks nearly smooth. *Metasternum* more closely sculptured. The *abdomen* finely and sparingly punctured.

Two other species occur in New Zealand (Nos. 367 and 1951); *B. obsoletus* may be easily distinguished by the very much finer sculpture.

Length  $2\frac{1}{4}$ , breadth  $\frac{3}{4}$  line.

West Plains, Invercargill. Mr. A. Philpott forwarded two examples for examination on the 29th March, 1894.

Group *Lathridiidæ*.*Lathridius sulcifrons*, sp. n.

*Suboblong*, moderately convex; fusco-piceous; femora reddish, the tibiæ and antennæ nearly testaceous, tarsi yellowish; head and thorax opaque, elytra slightly nitid.

*Head* broad, much narrowed anteriorly, its punctuation close, rather coarse, but not deep; with a central longitudinal groove. *Antennæ* feebly pubescent, their first joint large, red, second oviform; joints 3 to 8 slender, the third rather shorter than the fourth; club elongate, its middle joint

shorter than the others. *Thorax* subquadrate, rather broader than long, widest in front, gradually narrowed backwards, but with a slight incurvature near the middle of each side; the apex has a slight sinuosity behind each eye, the front angles are obtuse, the posterior are nearly rectangular, the disk is moderately transversely convex, but the sides are explanate; its sculpture is like that of the head. *Elytra* large, much broader than the thorax, their sides a little rounded and broadly margined; they are punctate-striate, the punctures are distinct and close, but the sutural striæ are nearly effaced behind; interstices simple, the outer one, near each shoulder, is, however, more costiform than any of the others. *Tarsi* slender, their basal joint evidently shorter than the second, third longest.

*Underside* piceous, slightly shining, moderately finely punctured; the hinder portion of the head is depressed, but the sides are raised; the metasternum is large, with a strongly curved, slightly elevated suture near the middle coxæ; abdomen with deep broad sutures, the basal segment as long as the following three, and more distinctly sculptured than those are.

No. 1603 (*L. puncticeps*) is, I think, the nearest ally. This is much larger, with large prominent eyes. The groove on the head may be best seen from the side; the furrow on the thorax is hardly visible from behind and is widely interrupted in the middle.

*Var.*—*Elytra* castaneous.

Length 1, breadth quite  $\frac{3}{8}$  line.

West Plains, Southland. Discovered by Mr. A. Philpott.

#### *Corticaria clarula*, sp. n.

*Subovate*, rather elongate, shining, red, legs and antennæ fulvous; pubescence yellow, slender and depressed, but on the elytra erect and conspicuous, and intermingled with elongate erect fuscous setæ.

*Head* distinctly punctured. *Eyes* large and prominent. *Antennæ* with outstanding hairs; basal joint stout, longer than broad; second much more slender and rather shorter than the first; 3 to 8 decrease in length; ninth and tenth longer than broad, dilated inwardly; eleventh oval, longer than tenth. *Thorax* rather longer than broad, narrowed in front and behind, the middle of each side prominent; it is distinctly punctured, the sides more closely than the disk; between the middle and the base it is broadly transversely depressed, close to the base there is a deep groove which

extends right across, the basal margin appears asperate and cariniform. *Scutellum* punctate, rounded behind. *Elytra* large, subovate, distinctly but not coarsely punctured; near each shoulder there is a rather broad oblique impression; the sutural region is very slightly depressed, but just below the top of the hind slope the depressions or striæ are deeper, and at this point the suture is more distinct than it is elsewhere. *Legs* stout, finely pilose. *Tarsi* yellow, but infusate near the extremity; first joint longer than the second and very slightly prolonged below it; third quite as long as the basal two, thickened apically; claws rather large and curved, with basal lobes.

This most nearly resembles No. 423.

*Var.*—Elongate setæ on hind body more slender and quite yellow. One was found near Howick several years ago.

Length  $\frac{3}{4}$ , breadth  $\frac{3}{8}$  line.

Hunua Range, Drury. One, on the ground, June 1893.

### Group *Copridæ*.

#### *Saphobius tibialis*, sp. n.

*Body* broadly oval, subopaque, clothed with short, sometimes bent or curled, fulvous setæ; fuscous, legs red, antennæ and tarsi paler.

*Head* moderately bidentate in front, distinctly and closely punctured. *Thorax* twice as broad as long, its sides nearly straight, but curvedly narrowed in front; its sculpture is not close and cannot be termed punctiform; it consists of oviform ring-like impressions, with a minute puncture in the middle of each. *Elytra* gradually curvedly narrowed from the shoulders backwards; they are feebly striate; the interstices are broad and plane, with dense, excessively minute, granular sculpture.

*Tibiæ* finely setose, the anterior rather long, slightly curved and feebly tridentate externally, the apex almost quite truncate and considerably prolonged inwardly, so as to be twice the width of the middle portion.

This is intermediate between *S. squamosus* and *S. setosus* as regards size. The inner apical dilatation of the front tibiæ is more abrupt, *i. e.* shorter in the longitudinal direction and more prolonged laterally, than in any other species known as yet.

♂. Length  $1\frac{1}{8}$ , breadth  $1\frac{3}{8}$  line.

Mount Pirongia, one example; a second was found near Mr. Kusab's saw-mill at Ohaupo, January 1893.

Group *Lucanidæ*.*Mitophyllus cylindricus*, sp. n.

*Subparallel*, moderately transversely convex, a little shining; red, the tarsi and antennæ paler; sparingly clothed with decumbent yellow hairs.

*Head* short, closely punctured, the forehead almost quite truncate, and with a more or less distinct margin. *Mandibles* short, much curved apically. *Eyes* prominent, rotundate, finely but distinctly faceted. *Antennæ* short, their basal joint with pale slender setæ; club short, finely pubescent, its third joint shorter and thicker than the second. *Thorax* one third broader than long, slightly narrowed towards the front, its sides minutely crenate and hardly at all curved; base feebly sinuate, with obtuse angles, the anterior subacute; the surface is moderately closely and coarsely punctured. *Scutellum* punctate. *Elytra* parallel-sided, as wide as the thorax at the base, the shoulders slightly rounded; their sculpture is somewhat ill-defined, consisting of shallow striæ and punctures; the spaces between the punctures are more or less raised transversely, so that the surface appears a little rugose. *Legs* pilose; front tibiæ curvate and finely denticulate or crenate externally, with an apical spine, and a straight one between it and the middle; the intermediate arched and asperate, but without any distinct central spine; the posterior nearly straight.

The unspotted surface, subcylindrical outline, and small size will prevent its being mistaken for any of its allies.

♀. Length  $3\frac{3}{4}$ , breadth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  line.

Wellington. Mr. J. H. Lewis found two specimens under the bark of a *Rimu*; one of these he sent to me.

*Mitophyllus angusticeps*, sp. n.

*Subovate*, slightly convex, opaque; smoky black, tarsi piceous, antennæ and palpi pitchy red; sparingly and irregularly clothed with elongate, depressed, pale testaceous scales.

*Head* very elongate and narrow, coarsely punctured, quite closely behind the eyes. *Mandibles* rather short and flat, bifid at apex. *Eyes* subdepressed, free, remote from the thorax. *Antennæ* short, the basal joint long and curvate, with a few elongate, erect, pale setæ; seventh slightly produced inwardly; club finely pubescent, its terminal joint thickest. *Thorax* nearly twice as broad as it is long, base bisinuate and wider than the front, its sides only moderately rounded, the angles obtuse; it is more finely punctured than

the head, more closely near the sides than on the disk; the squamæ are irregularly disposed, so that large areas are bare. *Scutellum* punctate and squamose. *Elytra* oblong, their punctuation, like that of the thorax, more regular, but not quite serial. *Front tibiæ* closely and finely denticulate, with a prominent external tooth near the apex and another below the middle; the intermediate with a central tooth, the posterior have none. *Tarsi* feebly pubescent, the terminal joint of the anterior about as long as the preceding four; the hind pair short, claws much bent.

This is a peculiar species. The head is even longer and narrower than that of *M. gibbosus* (No. 1666). The squamosity does not form distinct spots.

♀. Length  $3\frac{3}{4}$ , breadth  $1\frac{3}{4}$  line.

Wellington. One from Mr. G. V. Hudson, numbered 195.

### Group Melolonthidæ.

#### PSILODONTRIA, gen. nov.

*Body* subdepressed, ovate-oblong, nearly glabrous. *Clypeus* quadrate, with strongly elevated borders, truncate, or only slightly rounded in front. *Eyes* moderately convex. *Labrum* emarginate. *Maxillary palpi* moderately elongate, terminal joint subcylindrical. *Antennæ* 8-articulate, basal joint slender, but clavate at apex; second half the size of the first; third one half longer than broad; fourth shorter, obliquely articulated; fifth very transverse; club elongate, compressed, formed of three leaflets. *Thorax* transverse, marginated, base bisinuate. *Scutellum* large. *Elytra* oblong, partially covering the pygidium. *Legs* long, robust; *anterior tibiæ* bidentate, the female with an additional obtuse tooth above the middle. *Tarsi* longer than the tibiæ; claws slender, with a membranous appendage underneath.

*Posterior coxæ* briefly spiniform inwardly. Intermediate coxæ separated by a narrow *process*; this is horizontal, but on a lower plane than the coxæ themselves; it is curved towards the breast, but does not extend forwards beyond the coxæ.

In sternal structure the genus approaches *Odontria*, but the bare polished upper surface distinguishes it. From *Pyronota* it differs by the absence of the conspicuous sternal process, which fits in between the anterior coxæ, by the short, curved, hind coxal spines, more robust legs, longer club, and flatter surface.

*Psilodontria viridescens*, sp. n.

*Shining*, smooth, pale green; legs and antennæ infusate, club black.

*Head* smooth behind the median suture, distantly but distinctly punctured in front. *Thorax* about a third broader than long, rather more narrowed in front than it is behind, the sides near the middle obtusely angulate; anterior angles blunt and less depressed than in *Pyronota*, and the base less sinuate; posterior angles rectangular or nearly so; near each side there are a few fine punctures, but the disk appears to be impunctate. *Elytra* oblong, striate, the striæ with rather fine punctures; interstices broad, only slightly convex, with some minute punctures, and appearing feebly rugose. *Tarsi* (anterior) inserted in line with the apex of the second tooth; the spine on the inside of the *tibia* but little developed; middle and hind tibiæ asperate, bearing coarse grey setæ and armed with distinct spines at the inner extremity.

The *pubescence* is variable. The forehead bears some fine erect hairs; there are others along the sides of the body, and, in some cases, a few scattered quite indistinct ones may be noticed on the elytra.

*Underside* fuscous, shining, sparingly punctate, with numerous elongate grey setæ.

♀. *Antennæ* and tarsi shorter; legs not so stout.

*Var.*—*Thorax* feebly rufescent; the legs, antennæ, and palpi rufo-testaceous; the sides of the thorax not angulate.

♂. Length 3, breadth  $1\frac{1}{4}$  line.

Ashburton. Mr. W. W. Smith, to whom we are indebted for the discovery of this species, informs me that he found three males and a female under stones near a creek which flows towards the centre of the broad river-basin.

*Obs.*—*Pyronota*. On examining two species (*P. festiva*, Fabr., and *P. lugubris*, Sharp) I found that Hope's diagnosis is incorrect. He describes the antennæ as nine-jointed; in reality their structure is as follows:—

*Antennæ* 8-articulate; first joint clavate at apex, second about half as long as first, third and fourth cylindrical (the latter the shorter), fifth short; club triarticulate.

## PÆCILODISCUS, gen. nov.

Allied to *Stethaspis*. The *sternal process* is horizontal, but does not extend forwards beyond the intermediate coxæ; in front it is vertical. The *posterior coxæ* differ from those of

*Stethaspis* in being flatter and less curved and acuminate externally towards the front. The *metasternum* is depressed and grooved along the middle. The *abdomen* is shorter. The *tarsi* and claws are similar.

*Pæcilodiscus pulcher*, sp. n.

*Subovate*, moderately convex, nearly glabrous, shining, variegate.

*Head* green, with coarse shallow punctures in front, behind with quite fine and distant ones; forehead marked off by a sinuous suture, the frontal and lateral margins reddish and somewhat reflexed; clypeus widely emarginate. *Thorax* metallic green on the middle, more or less infusate behind; each side has a broad pale testaceous space, and an irregularly formed pallid mark extends from the front towards the centre of the disk; it is about a third broader than long; the sides are rather finely margined, they are almost gradually narrowed from the base forwards, rather more narrowed but not abruptly before the middle; the base is strongly bisinuate and appears rounded in the middle, the apex is widely emarginate; the posterior angles are nearly rectangular, but obtuse, and are quite as wide as the shoulders, the anterior are more acute; its surface is moderately punctured, with a shallow interrupted median groove, and near each side there is an ill-defined impression. *Scutellum* green, with red margins; it is large and bears a few punctures. *Elytra* suboblong, slightly narrowed towards the shoulders, distinctly margined, apices quite rounded; they are punctate-striate; the interstices are convex, the second is straight and becomes flat towards the extremity, the fourth and sixth unite behind; these, like the margins, are more or less greenish yellow, the rest of their surface is infusate green. *Legs* elongate, femora fuscous, tibiæ viridescent.

*Underside* fuscous, clothed with greyish hairs similar to those along the side of the upper surface; coxæ pallid.

This beautifully variegated insect recalls to mind some tropical Cetonidæ. The *antennæ* are broken off from the fourth joint; the first is stout and elongate, with white setæ; the next two are hardly longer than broad; the fourth rather longer.

Length  $6\frac{1}{2}$ , breadth  $2\frac{3}{8}$  lines.

Gow's Creek, Switzers, Central Otago, altitude about 4000 feet. One individual, found by Mr. John Frances, December 1892, was forwarded to me for examination by Professor Hutton. The type was presented by its discoverer to the Canterbury Museum.

*Odontria obscura*, sp. n.

*Ovate*, moderately broad; opaque, fuscous, head reddish brown and a little shining; legs testaceous, the tarsi and palpi rather darker; pubescence elongate and slender, decumbent, greyish yellow, intermingled with coarser erect infusate hairs, which, however, are nearly or quite absent on the hinder portion of the elytra.

*Head* rotundate, its punctuation coarse and rugose in front, not so close behind; clypeus strongly curved, not in the least truncate or emarginate, with raised margins. *Thorax* one half as long as it is broad, narrowed anteriorly, nearly straight behind the middle; moderately finely and not closely punctured; near the middle of the base the clothing is pallid, dense, and slender. *Scutellum* nearly impunctate behind, densely pilose in front. *Elytra* widest behind, only obsoletely striate; on each elytron there are four or five dark streaks; the intervals are moderately finely punctured. *Pygidium* with rather small shallow punctures, with erect hairs, some of which are much finer than the others. *Legs* of normal structure.

*Underside* infusate; the sternum dull, punctate, and bearing elongate slender pubescence; abdomen a little shining, unspotted, the sides and the apex of the fourth segment testaceous; fifth segment very short, broadly lobed in the middle at the apex; its pubescence is short and subdepressed.

♂. *Antennæ* with the basal joint as long as the following three; second joint as broad as it is long, third scarcely longer than fourth, fifth less than half the size of the club; this is not very elongate, and is composed of three equal leaflets.

♀. *Antennæ*: fourth joint shorter than third, fifth very short, not wider than the apex of the fourth.

The description of *O. cinnamomea* is not applicable to this species; it is, however, the nearest ally.

Length  $6\frac{1}{4}$ , breadth  $3\frac{3}{4}$  lines.

Wellington. Discovered by Mr. J. H. Lewis.

[To be continued.]